

**MINUTES OF POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSION  
MEETING OF JULY 15, 2021**

*4:00 p.m.*

*North Conference Room (203 South Farwell St)*

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MEMBERS PRESENT: Stephanie Finn, Disa Wahlstrand, Dan Kincaid

STAFF PRESENT: Police Chief Matt Rokus  
Fire Chief Chris Bell  
Human Resources Director Victoria Seltun  
Administrative Associate IV (HR) Alia Johnson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kimberly Cronk, Selika Ducksworth-Lawton

The Commission convened in open session at 4:00 p.m. Meeting was called to order by President Dan Kincaid. President Kincaid asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the Police and Fire Commission meetings held on May 20<sup>th</sup> and June 2<sup>nd</sup>. No corrections or additions were noted, and the minutes stand approved as circulated.

Dr. Jeneise Briggs was unable to attend the meeting as planned, so the introduction of the EDI Coordinator has been postponed to the September meeting.

Chief Rokus provided a personnel update. The department has not hired any new police officers since the last meeting and has had one officer resign (in good standing). The current eligibility list has been exhausted. The department currently has 4 officer vacancies, with 8 officers in some iteration of training, and a new hiring process currently in progress. PFC Oral Interviews are being scheduled for late August. Chief Rokus provided the Commission with some hiring statistics and a discussion was held.

Chief Rokus also provided an operational update. The department is currently involved in a Federal civil rights lawsuit that is scheduled for August in Madison, WI. A discussion was held. Lalita Prorok has joined the Police Department as the Co-Response Coordinator. This is a new, non-sworn position. Chief Rokus also shared with the Commission that the ECPD is being recognized by the IACP. A film crew was in the city earlier this week and the film will be a centerpiece at the international conference later this year. The department will also be provided with the raw footage for their own use.

Chief Bell provided a personnel update. The department hired one Firefighter since the last meeting, Rodney Whalen, who started on July 8<sup>th</sup>. The department currently has 2 vacancies and have conditional offers out to candidates from the last eligibility list. Both candidates need to complete their paramedic studies and are anticipated to start with the department in September. There are no additional retirements expected until next spring.

Chief Bell discussed the proposed Fire Department Engineer, Lieutenant, and Captain promotional eligibility lists as distributed with the packet. Discussion was held. Commissioner Finn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Wahlstrand, and passed unanimously, to adopt the Fire Department Engineer, Captain and Lieutenant promotional eligibility lists as distributed for 2021-2022, effective July 15, 2021.

Chief Bell also provided an operational update. The Fire Department has slowly been removing PFAS firefighting foam from the apparatus as time and money allows, however, a decision was made last month to expedite the removal of PFAS foam from the apparatus with the process being completed by the end of July. Recently, Sheriff Cramer with the Eau Claire County Sheriff's Department, purchased an air boat. This will be shared between the City of Eau Claire, Altoona, and Eau Claire County and is being stored at Fire Station 10. Discussion was held.

A discussion was held regarding officer elections. A motion was made by Commissioner Finn, seconded by Commissioner Wahlstrand, and passed unanimously to table agenda items 5, 6, and 7 until the September meeting of the Police & Fire Commission, but consensus was reached that there would be no further postponement of the agenda items after that meeting, assuming a quorum is present at the September 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

President Kincaid asked if there are any future agenda items. Discussion was held. The September meeting of the Police & Fire Commission will be held at Fire Station 10.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wahlstrand to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Finn, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

The next regularly-scheduled Police and Fire Commission meeting is September 16, 2021.

Minutes recorded by Kelly Shea, Police and Fire Commission Secretary.